



FROM THE DESK OF DIST. GOV. LION ROBERT LITTLEFIELD

## *5NE Lions News & Views*

### **Happy New Year!**

Kathy and I hope all of you enjoyed a safe and enjoyable start to 2011! We were in Texas visiting our daughter, son-in-law, and grandson watching the weather reports back home and thankful that we were able to go outside without heavy coats and boots! As the cold weather and blizzard conditions that ushered in the New Year remind us, North Dakota has four distinct seasons! For those of you who have aching backs from shoveling, please take a break and read this short newsletter with some highlights for what is coming in the next month.

### **Cabinet Meeting on January 15**

All cabinet members should have received an email letter and agenda for the District 5-NE cabinet meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 15, from 11-12 noon (CST). We are trying to minimize travel for everyone, so the meeting will take place over the North Dakota University System Interactive Video Network (IVN). The letter you received provides all of the details about the five university sites. However, IVN can connect with local high schools if we have the information in advance to set up and test the connections. It is very important that all cabinet members contact DG Robert by Monday, December 10, to confirm attendance and location. Unless sites are confirmed, they cannot be connected. Please check with DG Robert if you have any questions about this. If there are minimal local costs associated with one of the high school sites, please pay them and submit the bill to Cabinet Treasurer Sue Anderson for reimbursement.

Because we have only one hour for the meeting, we will focus our attention on matters needing discussion and action items. The agenda that was included with the letter lists topics that will be covered. If there is something that is missing, please let DG Robert know so we can add it to the agenda. All officers, zone/region chairs, and team leaders should submit a written report to Cabinet Secretary Lion Blake at [for-ent@ideaone.net](mailto:for-ent@ideaone.net) as soon as possible. Lion Blake will send out the reports electronically over the Internet when he receives them. We will refer to these reports at the meeting, but discuss only those items needing action.

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#### **How to Contact DG Robert Littlefield**

For visitation requests, information or assistance, please contact DG Robert at:

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Office: 701-231-7783  
Cell: 218-790-4346  
Fax: 701-231-7784

Submit stories and events for publication in the District 5NE Newsletter to  
Lion Sarah Nathan at  
[sknathan@gmail.com](mailto:sknathan@gmail.com)  
or call  
317-750-7860

## Lions-Red Cross Initiative Takes Shape

DG Robert and Lion Dave Rogness, Project Alert Committee Chair, will roll out a new project in the coming months that builds a direct relationship between Lions Clubs and the American Red Cross. The first phase of the project is to increase awareness of the close relationship between Lions Clubs and the American Red Cross. The vision and mission statements reflect the same concern for service to communities, meeting humanitarian needs, encouraging peace, and promoting international understanding. Lions Clubs will be contacted in early February and encouraged to consider how they might add or enhance their service activities by supporting Red Cross efforts in their communities.

As Lion leaders in District 5NE, you will be asked to help to encourage local clubs to reach out to the local Red Cross chapters to support their efforts through service or financial means. A letter will be sent out in early February to encourage local club leaders to take up this item as part of their local agendas. There are many Lions clubs that already support the Red Cross, so establishing this connection should not be too difficult.

Then, the second phase of the initiative begins as the district will begin efforts to identify local groups of Red Cross volunteers in communities where no Lions Club current exists and work with these Red Cross and Emergency Managers and volunteers to start special interest Lions clubs. The creation of local Red Cross Lions Clubs will help to build membership in LCI and individuals who join these groups can take advantage of personal and professional development opportunities through training from the Red Cross and LCI, as well as utilize and enhance the unique skills and resources of club members. By creating Red Cross Lions Clubs, communities will be able to ensure the presence of volunteers ready to respond in times of emergency or natural and environmental disasters.

This second phase will take longer to accomplish, but the potential for mutual benefit is great! Lions increase their presence and numbers, while the Red Cross finds an organizational structure in communities that helps to keep their volunteers engaged in activities and programs in the absence of emergency or disaster situations. Watch for more information and let your imaginations roam out of the box!



## **Club Visitation Reports**

DG Robert will be in touch with all Region and Zone Chairs to gather information that is needed by LCI regarding service projects and club viability. This matter will be discussed at the Cabinet Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Zone Chairs can gather much of this information about service projects at their next zone meetings. However, DG Robert would like to have a written report from each Region and Zone Chair documenting club visitations. Reports for all clubs visited thus far should be sent to DG Robert by February 1.

Club visitation reports do not require too much detail. For example, the following information is all that is needed: Name of club visited; date of the visit; general impression of club's organization and strength; any suggestions for improvement. Region Chairs were asked to visit all their clubs in August and September to promote the state convention. These visits could be the basis for their reports. Zone Chairs were asked to visit all their clubs to introduce themselves and promote zone meetings. These visits could be the basis for their reports.

## **Need to Promote Donations to LCIF Development Fund**

As district leaders, all cabinet members are asked to request that their local clubs donate to the LCIF during this fiscal year. The amount of the donation is not as important as the donation itself. We have a goal of increasing our district total by \$1000 this year. That is essentially one Melvin Jones Fellowship.

Last year, the following clubs in 5NE made no donation to LCIF: Argusville-Gardner-Grandin, Arthur, Ashley, Bowdon, Davenport, Devils Lake, Emerado-Arvilla, Gackle, Hazelton, Jamestown, Buffalo City, Jud, ND Campus, MayPort, Lakota, LaMoure, Turtle River, Leeds, Lehr, Linton, Medina, Napoleon, Pettibone, Sheldon, Sterling, Strasburg, Tuttle, Wing, and Zeeland Dakota.

Cabinet members are asked to contact club leaders to request a donation to LCIF this year. Personal contact may help to increase interest in LCIF—our International Foundation. With the threat of flooding again this spring, District 5NE may very well again be a recipient of LCIF emergency funding.

## LCI Improvements to WMMR Reporting Process

The Lions Club Service Activity Report was recently redesigned to provide clubs with additional tools to measure the impact of their work, monitor their service, and share information with others. In late January, a new release of the WMMR-based report is being deployed with several new features especially developed with the district in mind.

New Features for District Officers:

- New WMMR District Home Page

Service Activity Reporting – Goal Setting and Tracking

New Features for District and Club Officers:

- Service Activity Reporting – Signature Activities

Service Activity Reporting – Search

Training opportunities are scheduled in January to help demonstrate how to use these features. The first webcast is scheduled January 11 at 6:30 p.m. CST and the second is January 18 at 6:30 p.m. CST. To learn more about these webcasts, visit Lions Service Activity Report Web page on the LCI website.

## Upcoming Leadership Opportunities

District cabinet members are encouraged to take advantage of leadership opportunities in the upcoming months.

- District 5NE Training Seminars on April 27 in Regions 2, 3, 4, and 7; and April 28 in Regions 1, 5, and 6. Club Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Membership Chairs are strongly encouraged to attend.
- MD5 Convention is set for Deadwood, SD on June 9-11. “A Sure Bet for MD5 Lions” will be a great opportunity to meet and enjoy Lions training and camaraderie. You don’t want to miss the fund at the Lodge at Deadwood (605-584-4800).
- The International Lions Convention is scheduled July 4-8 in Seattle, WA. Make plans to take in all the excitement of an international convention.
- The Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute is scheduled July 22-24. District 5NE has funds to pay registration costs (lodging and food) for this great training opportunity.
- The USA/Canada Forum will be held September 22-24 in Anchorage, AL. The 2011 Forum Theme, “I Believe in Lions Leadership” will be the backdrop for dozens of seminars and workshops held over the three-day event. In addition, four main speakers will add their dynamic motivational talks to the mix. Visit the website [www.usacanadalionsforum.org](http://www.usacanadalionsforum.org) for more information.

**Succession Planning Begins Now!**